

THE MSS LIAISON

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July-August 2021

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CCC – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG –
MCKC – MMV – MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – RBX – SEMO – SPG.

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Missouri Speleological Survey

Fall Meeting 2021

The fall 2021 MSS board meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 19 at Bennett Spring State Park at Shelter A, overlooking the spring.

This event is being held in conjunction with a cave mapping trip into Mary Lawson Cave on Saturday, September 18.

The MSS has reserved the Special Use Area, group campground at Bennett Springs State Park for both Friday and Saturday nights. This is a tent only site that is limited to 25 people and five vehicles. Cost is \$2 per person, per night. We will likely have to shuttle some vehicles from a nearby parking area. Priority for camping will be given to those who help survey in Mary Lawson Cave.

Coordinates for the campsite are 37.726767, -92.861333

For questions about camping or the MSS board meeting site contact Krista Bartel (kbartel1088@gmail.com)

Mary Lawson Cave survey information

We will meet at Lawson Conservation Area at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 18. Parking is in a field on the east side of Hwy E, west of Eldridge.

Coordinates for Lawson Conservation are 37.864302, -92.823580

To participate in the survey you must contact Matt Beeson (mattamanda.beeson@gmail.com) or Dan Lamping (danieljlamping@gmail.com)

There are no group meals planned for the weekend, so food is on your own.



Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for September 1, 2021. If you have **new information** on any Missouri caves, my email address is slagrush@gmail.com. We need your help to improve the database and make it more complete. I can and do work with Facebook entries, but for information or photos to be incorporated I need to be “private messaged” with the cave name and county. **Jim Cooley sent:** -A dozen faunal records for caves in St Clair, Benton, Camden and Shannon Cos. **Josh Cooper sent:** -6 Faunal Records for Streiler City Cave in Perry Co. **Ken Grush sent:** -A new map for a Jackson Co. cave, Unity Natural Tunnel. I happened to be visiting family that are 5 minutes away from the feature, and took a break to map the tunnel. - A capture of the Barry Co. Advertiser article on the dive at Roaring River State Park where KISS Rebreathers broke through a restriction to set a new depth record for the spring, now at 239 ft. -Adjustments of names to put possessive names in the database as synonyms. It has long been a request not to have possessives in cave names, but somehow, we have over 80 names that are possessive. It actually is something like a national standard to not put possessives in geographic names, partly because it gets lost on displayed maps. You’d think with technology “and all” we could do this. Well, we’ve tried recently to convert cave locations and names into GPX files to post onto GPS devices and GIS maps. Now some GIS maps seem to be able to handle possessives. Not quite all yet. So, to appease people, we still have possessive names in the database, but they are synonyms now. The primary name just removes the possessive “s” and makes it a “plural s.” All to accommodate GPX files that are coming into common use with GPS technology. The apostrophe does come into play on several other names and these too will become synonyms. The synonym can still be searched for and nothing else needs to change. -40 “historic” 1990-vintage cave reports from an Honors Thesis on the Grotto Sculpin in Perry Co. I also salvaged about 140 Faunal Records from the thesis. **Scott House sent:** -2 new leads for Newton Co. **Derik Holtmann sent:** -51 photos from a recent survey trip to Berome Moore System in Perry Co. -Photo documentation of a historic trip beneath the streets of St. Louis, to visit an old brewery cave and not the usual brewery; over 130 photos and a video too. **Mark Jones sent:** -About 500 photos from Shannon Co., over 80 photos for Washington Co. and about 240 photos from Carter Co.; all from activity on agency (MTNF or ONSR) properties while monitoring for CRF. Lots of new “cover” photos have been added to the database from this collection. **Dan Lamping sent:** -5 Use Monitoring forms and 7 Faunal Records from work done on 5 caves while monitoring caves for CRF and ONSR in Shannon Co. -All of his Xara files and all of his scanned survey notes, total count was 4398 files in 645 folders, right at 22gb of data. About 100 Missouri caves were included with a few from Illinois. All were captures for the archives. **Bob Lerch sent:** -6 sheets of the final version of Hunters Cave (8591=CL) in Boone County. **Alex Litsch sent:** -A new cave for Lincoln Co., Meander Cave; all the ingredients to fill out the main table in the database for a cave. **Joe Light sent:** -A report with 6 photos of Greens Cave in Washington Co. -Seven photos from the recent MVG monthly meeting held within the entrance of Cliff Cave in a St Louis County Park. While there, he collected comments on the cave conditions and 7 Faunal Records. -Assistance straightening out information on some of the roadside caves that have been modified in the past decades by interstate expansion. -A monitoring report on Cliff Cave in St. Louis Co. Four Faunal Records were also submitted. -A report on Hamilton Spring Cave in Washington Co., along with 4 Faunal Records. -Three interesting photos of the 1992 rescue at Cave of the Falls in St Louis Co. He also had 4 newspaper articles further documenting the rescue. **Ken Long sent:** -8 photos of Stubblefield Cave in Miller Co. He also updated the database with a GPS location. **Ben Miller sent:** -A map of Talking Rocks Cave (CL=566, VR=85) in Stone Co. Miller breaks out the passage and tourist trails on 3 levels of the cave. -Map of Cashew Chicken Breezeway Cave (24=CL) in Stone Co., a new cave he submitted earlier this year. **Chad McCain sent:** -A Faunal Record on the Grotto Sculpin in Tom Moore Cave, in Perry Co. **Dennis Novicky sent:** -Videos for 14 different caves spread across 8 counties. These were all of low cave passage that were pushed to complete maps. For a preview, check out his page, “Disney Land by way of Military Escort,” on Facebook. **Richard Thompson sent:** -32 or more photos of Howell, Howell Spring and Bat Caves in Laclede Co.; photos of work on the hatch at Carroll Cave in Camden Co.; photos of Ash Grove Cave in Greene Co. and Twinn/Hollis and Old Potato Caves from Polk Co.; photos from Onyx Mountain/Onyx Cave in Pulaski Co. One of these actually had a

cow for scale; it takes a lot of determination to coax a cow to pose for you! -35 more photos of Stinson Cave in Lawrence Co.; Elkton Cave in Hickory Co.; Hayes Cave in Stone Co.; Hall Branch and Mousetrap in Greene Co.; Zoo and Heuszel Caves in Taney Co; Fleming Cave in Crawford Co.; and Scott Spring Cave in Green Co. Several of these photos will become the “cover” photo in the database to show what to look for when out in the field. -Among all the photos, there were many comments on different caves; the comments were captured and placed in the archives. At least one “lost” cave was located. Thompson submitted the first report on this cave, but apparently the PLSS location was not captured at that time. He supplied both aerial and LIDAR imagery to pinpoint the location. -Information on 3 features around Cave Spring in Polk Co. Beside Cave Spring itself, Bonus Cave and a lead on a sink all seem to be related. Former entrance photos for access to Cave Spring were provided. -Information and photos from Bunch Cave in Camden Co. and Boswell Tractor Pit Cave in Polk Co. **Jim Vandike sent:** -5 photos of Donivan Sink Cave that he found back in 1975 in Ralls Co. **Shannon Zaloz sent:** -2 reports of Elbow Cave (Boone Co.) and Berome Moore Cave (Perry Co.). -A report on Rutherford/Ralphord Cave in Boone Co. in which she had 5 faunal records and a digital copy of the state’s geologic map, hadn’t seen that before, that is, in such detail. —Ken Grush

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). LOG members are working on grotto t-shirts and sweatshirts which will be by special order only. Our holdup is whether we want our old traditional dragon or a new modern dragon..... We are also working on a Memorial bench to be placed at Stark Caverns. The July issue of the *NSS News* had a very nice article on Stark Caverns. Chairman Long is organizing an exploratory trip into the back of Jacob’s Cave. Rosie and Karen Weaver submitted photos of Devil’s Well to be scanned into the archives by Ken Grush. **Aug. 22nd** - Goodwin work trip submitted by Ken Long: I arrived at Goodwin sinkhole at 7:30 am. I was the first to arrive. I walked to the pavilion with my weed eater and fuel, planning to weed eat the property around the sink. I started cutting weeds about 7:45. I worked up top for a while heading back toward the gate when



Photo by Klaus Leidenfrost

Brandon Schroeder arrived, a student from MST in Rolla. We talked for a while, then he headed toward the pavilion to get ready for the workday. I continued down the hill to the sink, weed eating the road. Once at the bottom, I looked at the path to the sink and just shook my head. The weeds were at least 3-4 feet tall! So, I carefully walked down the steep path, weed eating as I went down. I managed to get a wide path cut and then headed back up the hill. Klaus Leidenfrost and Jean Knoll arrived. The plan was to pump out the cave entrance so it could dry out a little. Klaus and Brandon went down to the entrance and set up the pump. There was about 2-3 feet of water in the sink so a hose was run up the hill and the pumping began. I stayed up top with Jean and finished weed eating. Then I grabbed the mower and started mowing.

Jean was picking up sticks and small tree limbs and burning them on the fire she had started. I mowed the front half of the property, taking several breaks as it was already 90 degrees and climbing. I finally finished mowing around 11:00. The heat was really bad. We stopped for a lunch break about 11:30. After lunch Klaus and Brandon went back down the sink. I collected all my things and put them in my truck. I expressed to everyone I was leaving as it was too hot to continue. Klaus and Brandon did manage to get most of the water out of the sink. If we don't get a lot of rain in the future, the next trip will be to continue working in the sump trying to enlarge it. —Alberta Zumwalt

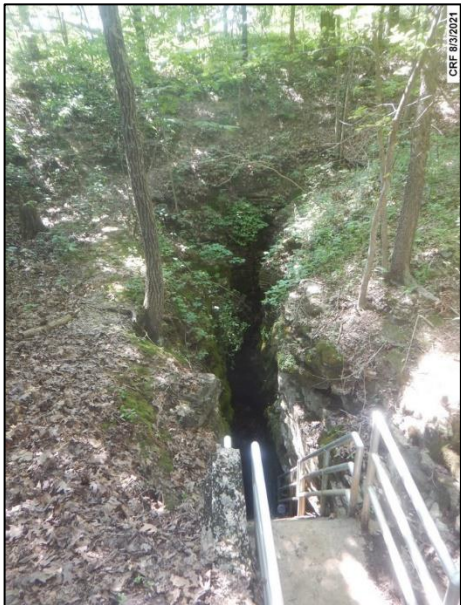
Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG) report for July-August, 2021: July 24th – Bill Gee, Seth Colston, Krista Bartel and Kristen Godfrey surveyed several hundred feet in Robbers Cave in Benton Co., starting from the flowstone barrier and going upstream. **July 25th** – Gee and Colston tried to continue the survey deeper into the cave, but ran into some clustered gray bats roosting in a low, small dome. So, they retraced their steps,

and instead ran a survey line from the flowstone barrier back to the entrance. Meanwhile, Kristen Godfrey led a KCAG novice trip to Perkins Cave. **Aug. 4th – 8th** - In order to improve KCAG vertical skills, Bill Gee led a trip including Seth Colston, Matthew Hernandez and Becky Nelson to some of the classic Southeast Cave Conservancy Inc. pits in the Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia (TAG) area. The chosen pits were Neversink,



Illinois Caverns is open to the public for unguided wild cave tours

Valhalla and South Pittsburgh Pit. The group camped in Alabama’s Cathedral Caverns State Park. Gee provided a very nice trip report and some stunning photos on the grotto website, kcgrotto.caves.org. **Aug. 3rd** - Jim Cooley and Julie Cottrell met with three representatives of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) at Illinois Caverns, half an hour outside of St. Louis, which has recently been opened to the public for wild, unguided cave tours. The purpose of the visit was to discuss gating options. Cooley had designed a replacement for the existing gate in 2015, when the cave was closed, but IDNR is considering a large, more elaborate cupola-style gate. **Aug. 4th** - Cooley and Cottrell accompanied Ken Grush to visit the gate at Cliff Cave in St. Louis Co. This was the first cave gate Cooley worked on, which was built in October,



Possible site of large cupola gate at Illinois Caverns. Waterloo. IL



Cliff Cave gate – St. Louis County

2009 by Missouri cavers as the field exercise of a week-long cave gating workshop sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and Bat Conservation International. It still looks just as daunting as it did in 2009. **Aug. 14th** - Rick & Kay Hines hosted the annual grotto picnic at their home and acreage in Stilwell, Kansas. **Aug. 21st** - Bill Gee, Kohl Mitchell and Krista Bartel continued work on the survey project at Stark Caverns, a show cave near Eldon, Missouri. They worked on some very tight, convoluted passages at the end of the Grand Canyon area, and also took a quick look at the Rugged Canyon to assess survey challenges. Yep, Rugged Canyon will also be a rugged challenge, requiring small surveyors. --Jim Cooley

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). July 5th---Dr. Doug Gouzie went to Alabaster Cave State Park in Oklahoma. Upon taking the regular tour, Doug discovered that the tour is temporarily using the exit as both entrance and exit due to a rock fall somewhere in the first few hundred feet of the cave. The current tour only

goes within 100 yards or so of the rockfall area, then turns around and re-traces the trail back to the exit. The tour guide reported that an early estimate to break up and remove the rockfall was several million dollars, but there was also an estimate to build a new trail bridge over top of the rock fall (breakdown) that was only about 1.5 million so they are hoping the State Parks will soon choose that option and begin that work. **July 16th**--- Brandon Van Dalsem, Nicole Ridlen and Treavor Bussard visited Cumberland Caverns for a recreational trip. They visited the Crystal Palace, Boneyard and the "Gypsum Road". **July 17th**---Brandon Van Dalsem, Nicole Ridlen and Treavor Bussard visited Lost Creek Cave and spent about 4 hours seeing the various parts of the cave. Some of which are the biggest passages Treavor had ever been in. **July 18th**--- Brandon Dalsem, Nicole Ridlen and Treavor Bussard made a through trip in Cumberland Caverns, from the Tour Entrance to the Higginbotham Entrance. **Aug. 15th**---Trenton Wells, Sean Fay, Treavor Bussard, Matt Bumgardner, Bethany Bruman and Jon Beard made a photography/management/bio inventory trip to Breakdown Cave (Christian Co). The Main Room, Third Level, Formation Loop and Southeast Passage were visited and photographed. Particularly appreciated were two recent developments of pure white calcite rivers, one in the Formation Loop and one in Brent's Room at the junction of Southeast, Fitz, Grapes of Wrath and Canopy Avenue. Three species of salamanders were seen including two aquatic larval. Zero bats were seen. Also seen were springtails and a rhagidiid mite (1 mm, white). Treavor oiled the locks and pins of the gate. It was Sean's first SPG trip. **Aug. 28th**---Dr. Doug Gouzie and 10 Students from Missouri State University took a tour of Onondaga Cave in Onondaga State Park. --Materials provided by Jonathan Beard, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Nicole Ridlen. Report by Max White

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Research Committee -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Jeffrey Crews.
Cave Files Committee: Scott House (Chairman), Ken Grush, Mick Sutton, Dan Lamping, and Jeffrey (Spike) Crews.

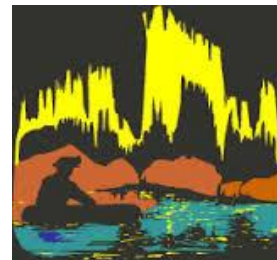
NOTE: Next *Liaison* Deadline – November 1st.

Missouri Speleological Survey -- Fall 2021 Board Meeting Agenda

Bennett Springs State Park

September 19, 2021

Board meeting begins at 10:00 AM



Administrative Business

- Roll call – Officers and Board
- Secretary’s Report and approval of last meeting’s minutes – Alberta Zumwalt
- Liaison – Gary Zumwalt
- Treasurer’s Report – Don Dunham
- *Missouri Speleology* – Don Dunham

Old Business

- Frequency of MSS Meetings

Here’s what our bylaws currently state.

A. There shall be a minimum of three meetings per year, in the Fall, Winter, and Spring at specific dates specified by Board action.

B. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least 30 days advance notice to all Board members.

The proposed bylaws change is as follows.

A. There shall be a minimum of two meetings per year.

B. Meeting dates, locations and / or formats (in-person or online) shall be determined by the President and approved by the Board either in person or via electronic communication with at least 30 days advance notice to all Board members. In the event of electronic communication (email), approval of upcoming meeting dates, locations and / or formats is to be determined by a vote of the majority of Board members who respond to the call for a meeting within two weeks.

D. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least 30 days advance notice to all Board members.

- Dave Hoffman property

New Business

- Reappointment of Don Dunham as Treasurer
- Reappointment of Jeff Crews and Doug Gouzie to Research Council

Projects and Announcements

- Cave Files Committee Report
- Agency Reports
- Affiliate Organizations Project Reports

Next meeting

- Suggestion to consider March 2022 in Perryville in conjunction with a public outreach event organized with the City of Perryville.

Adjournment